

AIRLIFT Dispatch

Inside

- ▶ Taxiway / 2
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ Airfield seizure / 11
- ▶ Swami / 17

Vol. 39, No. 40

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, October 13, 2000



Looks good

Carl Brown, 315th Aircraft Generation Squadron aircraft technician, performs a visual post-flight inspection on a C-17. The C-17 will be the main attraction at Air Expo 2000 Saturday. Charleston AFB's gates open to the public at 9 a.m.

Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Air Expo 2000 hosts thousands

By Capt. Tracy Velino
437AW Public Affairs

Team Charleston will welcome thousands of guests through Charleston AFB gates Saturday for an up-close encounter with their nation's military at Air Expo 2000.

"Last year we drew 60 to 70,000 people, and this year we hope to draw a similar size crowd," said Capt. Brian Newberry, Air Expo deputy director and 15th Airlift Squadron aircraft commander.

Air Expo 2000, the largest single-day attendance event in the state, is open to the public with free admission and parking. Gates open at 9 a.m., the opening ceremony is at 10:30 a.m. and the last scheduled aerial performance ends at 4 p.m. The annual air show is held to teach the public about the military.

This year's expo will put CAFB's own aircrews and the C-17 Globemaster III in the spotlight. Maj. Jeff Meyers, 437th Operations Group standardization and evaluations pilot, will lead a team of seven aircrews from the 437th and 315th Airlift wings through an intricate schedule of events to showcase the premier airlifter's unique landing, maneuvering, load-

ing and takeoff capabilities.

"Seven aircraft will be airborne before the airshow starts," said Meyers. At 11 a.m., following the opening ceremony, Meyers and his team will treat the crowd to seven roaring C-17s when a four-ship and three-ship formation join forces over the airfield. Six of the aircraft will then depart the area, remaining airborne until they return for appearances later in the day.

Meyer's aircraft will remain over the airfield to airdrop the Wings of Blue, the U.S. Air Force Academy's parachute team, who will perform an exciting aerial ballet.

As soon as the Wings of Blue reach the ground, the C-17 will descend for a demonstration. "We'll do steep banking and turns, a short-field landing, and backing, and then a short-field take-off," said Meyers.

About an hour later, Capt. Gary Higginbotham, 15 AS evaluator aircraft commander, will lead three aircraft to airdrop a total of 60 paratroopers, primarily from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., as part of the airfield seizure demonstration.

Capt. Lenny Richoux, wing executive officer and 14th

See Air Expo 2000, page 3

Charleston AFB set for 2000 HQ AMC base appearance competition

Commentary by
Capt. David Scharf

437CES chief, maintenance engineering

Time to roll up our sleeves and get dirty cleaning up our base for the Air Mobility Command Base Appearance Competition. A \$200,000 first prize is at stake. It could be used to build playgrounds, improve the dormitory campus or any other quality of life improvement project. We could also earn the distinction of being the "Best

in AMC." Therefore, it is important we get together, show our Team Charleston pride and get our base ready.

The headquarters team, led by Col. Michael Fitz, chief, operations division Headquarters AMC Civil Engineer, and accompanied by evaluators from the operations, logistics and support communities will arrive here Wednesday and place our base under a microscope for the entire day Thursday. Throughout the day, four evaluators will comb every

square inch of the base looking closely at general base appearance items such as architectural compatibility, signage, infrastructure, landscaping, roads, airfield areas and long-range improvement plans.

The team will assess the exteriors of almost every building on base, including dormitories and military family housing. They will look at the interiors of the dining facility, fitness center, chapel, lodging desk, billetting rooms, child development center,

family support center, passenger terminal, base operations, education center, library, personnel customer service, base theater, bowling center, housing office and youth center.

To get our base in a condition we can be proud of, we will have another "Pride Day" Monday. However, we should all keep in mind that every day is pride day here, and we should all do our part each and every day.

See Appearance, page 5